

**Freetown Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, January 25, 2016 Meeting  
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.



**Present:** Keven Desmarais, Janine Robidoux, and Charles Sullivan.

**Absent:** Christopher Mather and Maria Ternullo.

**Call to order:** Keven Desmarais called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of January 4th were received. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion otherwise carried unanimously.

**Notice of Intent – Crystal Springs Bleachery Dam, Narrows Road, Assonet**

Nick Wildman from the Department of Ecological Restoration (D.E.R.) was present to discuss the project, along with Mike Labossiere from the Fall River Water Department. Mr. Wildman stated that Natural Heritage has reviewed the project and has expressed no concerns with the plans.

Mr. Wildman stated the project ranks in the ninety-ninth percentile for benefit. Removing the dam will restore fish passage, eliminate flooding and other dangers, and reduce liability for the City of Fall River. He provided a brief history of the project, including that the bleachery mill burned in 1955. The site has been left mostly to grow in since that time. There is a system of foundations and other ruins, but nothing significant. The Mass. Historical Commission reviewed the project and found that it would not adversely impact any historical sites as currently presented.

Mr. Wildman stated the dam is approximately 400' long, with the west channel being the main channel and the east channel being primarily underground. The west channel has failed, and water tends to find its own course. D.E.R. started reviewing the dam property in 2012, and they have sampled water four times in various locations. They've found that sediments flowing into the pond and in the pond are clean, and those flowing through and beyond the dam have high levels of lead and metals, presumably from the bleachery.

Mr. Wildman stated the engineering of the culverts was studied, and it was determined that neither culvert could handle the stream flow independently. Instead, they plan to collapse the east channel, and then reopen the construction channel from the culvert replacement to flow water through both culverts. He added that in a 100-year storm, water would be over the roadway anyhow, so it was less concerning. Mr. Desmarais noted the town had wanted to build the culverts with a higher capacity, but FEMA would only pay to replace what was there previously.

Mr. Wildman stated that herring, smelt, and the American eel are the major fish populations for the area. Herring cannot get beyond the dam, but should be able to pass once the project is completed. It was also noted that breaching the dam and completing the project will remove the dam from the radar of the Office of Dam Safety.

Overall, the project will consist of collapsing and filling the east channel, removing approximately 100 feet of the existing dam structure, widening the west channel, and creating a connector channel where the previous temporary construction channel was. Mr. Wildman anticipated the entire project would last six to eight weeks, and they are aiming for an August or September start. The funding for the project expires in May of 2017. They will use no machinery in the pond area. FEMA will be notified for flood map purposes as the project may alter flood zones.

Mr. Desmarais asked if there were any questions from the audience or from abutters, and there were none.

It was noted that site visits will be scheduled for some time the weekend of February 6th/7th.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue the hearing to Monday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Notice of Intent – 208 County Road, East Freetown**

Mr. Desmarais called the hearing to order. He noted the applicant had failed to advertise the hearing. The hearing was declared cancelled for failure to advertise.

**Notice of Intent – 0 Cameron's Way, East Freetown**

Kory Medeiros from SITEC was present to discuss the project, which involves constructing a modest house, single-family, well, and septic system. He stated the property was not affected by flood zones and was outside of the area Natural Heritage is involved in.

It was noted that site visits will be scheduled for some time the weekend of February 6th/7th.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robidoux, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to continue the hearing to Monday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Determination of Applicability – 62 Narrows Road, Assonet**

Bob Berube was present from Proline Engineering to discuss the project. The project consists of abandoning an old septic system and replacing it with a new, Title V compliant system. He states no work would be done down the slope. There will be a little grading within the 75' buffer, no work within the 100' buffer.

Mr. Desmarais noted that this was the old Kevelson property for clarification, and that this was Seymour Kevelson's house and not one of the new lots on the Causeway or "new" Narrows Road.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the location of the old septic system. Mr. Berube said there was no record on file with the Board of Health, and an approximate location had been determined by the pipe exiting the house.

A motion was made by Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to issue a negative determination #3, with the condition that a plan or narrative be provided giving the location of the existing septic to be abandoned. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – Cranberry Bogs, 3 Quarry Drive, Assonet**

A request was received for a certificate of compliance for the cranberry bogs off Bryant Street. The original Order of Conditions and an amendment were both issued in 1987. A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to issue a complete certificate of compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

**Continued Public Hearing – Lamb's Village, East Chipaway Road**

John Robinson was present representing the Pentecostal Assembly, and Adam was present from Environmental Partners as the town's consultant. An extensive discussion was held relative to a review letter issued by Environmental Partners. Over the course of the discussion, it was determined that Mr. Robinson had made revisions to the plan that Environmental Partners was not aware of. Mr. Desmarais requested that in the future, Mr. Robinson provide revisions to Environmental Partners as soon as possible to prevent these types of lapses.

Motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Robidoux, to continue the hearing to Monday, February 22, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Bills**

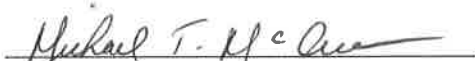
No bills were presented.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Robidoux, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest:

  
Michael T. McCue, Senior Clerk